

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Senator Schumer and Representative McCarthy:

We are writing in regard to the significant financial challenges that hospitals in Michigan continue to face in responding to the COVID pandemic. Michigan is currently the third hardest hit state by both number of Coronavirus patients and number of Coronavirus deaths.

Michigan hospitals are currently caring for COVID-19 patients, actively administering tests, and working to provide the highest and best level of care for patients in our communities. As part of that, hospitals and health systems are addressing challenges in ensuring adequate staffing, expanding capacity, accessing proper equipment and maintaining financial viability. The suspension of providing non-essential services has significantly exacerbated those financial issues while expenses continue to rise as hospitals prepare for and treat patients with COVID-19. These challenges continue to significantly strain Michigan's hospitals.

We respectfully request that any future legislation regarding COVID includes a forgiveness provision for all accelerated payments to hospitals. These payments, as authorized in Section 3719 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act have been vital for maintaining needed cash flow to continue operations and will help close some of the gap in revenue currently being experienced.

The repayment of these loans will be a significant financial burden at a time when Michigan hospitals are likely to still be responding to or recovering from this pandemic. As we gather more data on the financial impact to Michigan hospitals, current allocations from the state and federal governments are likely to be significantly inadequate in keeping hospitals on solid financial footing. We look forward to working with you on future funding issues but believe that

forgiving these Medicare accelerated payments will be an important next step in the ongoing pandemic response.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress